

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated August 14, 2002, the Examiner imposed a restriction requirement between seven different species. Claims 3, 13-14 and 18-20 are hereby withdrawn from consideration, without prejudice.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects species V, Figure 12, with traverse. Claims 1-2, 4-12 and 15-17 read on the elected species. Applicant respectfully submits that it is improper to restrict the inventions shown in Species IV and Species V. The grafts shown in Figures 8-12 are similar. A full and complete search of the prior art for Species IV is expected to cover those areas searched for Species V, and visa-versa. Furthermore, no undue burden is expected to be incurred by the Examiner in searching for prior art covering the embodiments of the invention shown in Figs. 8-12. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the distinction between the species should not be maintained.

Applicant has added new claims 21-36, all of which read on the elected Species V, as well as Species IV.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes the foregoing election and amendment places this application in condition for allowance and early, favorable, action on the merits is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment associated with this Response, to Deposit Account No. 501225 (VAS-5512).

Dated: 9/3/02

Respectfully submitted,



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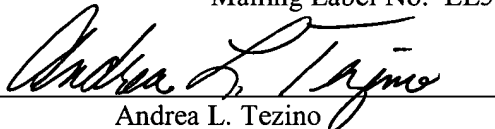
I hereby certify that on September 3, 2002 the above-identified document (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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VAS 5512

ATTACHMENT A: VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES
IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph on p. 13, lines 13-15 as follows:

An intraluminal device according to the present invention is generally shown as 10 in the drawings. The intraluminal device 10 comprises to separate components, a first graft 11 and a second, supplemental graft 12.